

**Department of Natural Resources
Timber Report
First Quarter Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13**

Background

Michigan's state forest system was originally certified under both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) third-party forest certification standards in December 2005. Michigan successfully re-certified under both standards in December 2010.

Forest certification protocols require public participation in forest management planning and forest operations. The Department of Natural Resources (Department) compartment review process has been audited by both the SFI and the FSC and has been recognized as a key public participation mechanism that meets requirements for forest certification.

The Department's investment in forest certification strengthens Michigan's forest products sector. Certification is essential in order for primary wood producers in Michigan to have continued access to national and international markets.

First Quarter FY 2012-13 Timber Treatments

State forest planning and activities, including timber treatments, are conducted within the framework of SFI and FSC forest certification principles and standards. Timber treatments in a given year are based on compartment review decisions. Additional treatments are approved, in particular, when timber salvage is feasible because of fire or insect and disease impacts.

The FY 2012-13 plan of work currently identifies 79,794 acres for timber sale preparation that were approved through the compartment review process. Many of these acres are prescribed because of the impact of Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Bark Disease. In some cases, these acres are being prepared ahead of the normal schedule. Managers have developed draft work plans to prepare 72,309 acres for sale with current resources. Options are being explored to resource the remaining 7,485 acres.

Timber sale preparation is done by Department staff and through timber marking contracts with private consultants. In the first quarter of FY 2012-13, 3,105 acres of timber sale preparation-marking contracts were awarded. Contracts for an additional 4,967 acres are expected to be in place later in the fiscal year.

The Department submitted 11,819 acres of timber sales in the first quarter, with an estimated volume of 161,400 cords. Of 180 sales offered in the first quarter, 161 sold on their initial offerings. This 11% no-bid percentage is up slightly from the fourth quarter of FY 2011-12, where over 9% of sales received no bids. The first quarter no-bid percentage of 11% is also significantly higher than the whole of FY 2011-12, where about 5% of sales received no bids. Of the 19 sales that received no bids in the first quarter, 9 have since sold.

FY 2012-13	Total sales offered in the quarter	Offerings with no bids	Percent (%) of sales that were no-bid
1 st quarter	180	19	11%